

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 067981

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, UN, UK, IS, LE, EG

SUBJECT: UK POSITION ON ISRAELI-LEBANESE SITUATION

1. UK EMBASSY DESCRIBED TO US THE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WERE
SENT TO THE UK AMBASSADOR IN TEL AVIV. THE UK AMBASSADOR
THERE IS TO MAKE PRESENTATION ALONG FOLLOWING LINES TO
DAYAN OR EVRON:

-- HE IS TO CONVEY FOREIGN SECRETARY'S DEEP CONCERN OVER
ISRAEL'S MILITARY OPERATION WHILE MAKING CLEAR HE AND THE
UK GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT RPT NOT PUBLICLY CALL FOR ISRAEL'S
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WITHDRAWAL.

-- FOREIGN SECRETARY EXPRESSES HIS HOPE PRIVATELY, HOW-
EVER, THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL WITHDRAW AND MAKE THEIR IN-
TENT TO DO SO PROMPTLY AS CLEAR AS POSSIBLE.

-- AN SC DEBATE IS LIKELY TO BE UNHELPFUL BUT INEVITABLE.

THE UK REP, AS SC PRESIDENT, WILL BE CLOSELY INVOLVED AND UK/ISRAELI CONSULTATIONS ARE THEREFORE IMPORTANT. THE UK WILL DO ITS BEST TO WORK FOR A BALANCED RESOLUTION.

-- ISRAEL SHOULD RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THE CHANCES OF A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION WOULD BE GREATLY IMPROVED BY

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FIRM ASSURANCES OF ISRAEL'S INTENT TO WITHDRAW, OR AT LEAST SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE ITS FORCES IN LEBANON IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

-- UK RECOGNIZES THAT EVEN AFTER AN IDF WITHDRAWAL THERE WILL BE LONG-TERM SECURITY CONCERNS FOR ISRAEL. THE BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO REASSERT ITS AUTHORITY IN THE AREA, BUT THIS SEEMS UNLIKELY SINCE THE LEBANESE ARMY IS NOT PRESENTLY STRONG ENOUGH TO DO SO.

-- AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE A STRONG UN PRESENCE TO SECURE THE BORDER AND TO ASSURE THAT SOUTH LEBANON IS NOT USED FOR TERRORIST OPERATIONS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IS ABLE TO EXERT ITS AUTHORITY THERE.

-- UK AMBASSADOR WILL THEN POSE QUESTION AT THAT POINT: HOW WOULD ISRAEL REACT TO A PROPOSAL IN THIS SENSE?

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-- THEN UK AMBASSADOR WILL DESCRIBE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL'S REPRESENTATIONS TO UK AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 15 TO THE EFFECT THAT THE UK SHOULD ADVISE BEGIN TO STOP HIS AGGRESSION AND WITHDRAW; ISRAELI MOVES ARE NOT CALCULATED TO HELP PEACE NEGOTIATIONS; EGYPT WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED BY GENERAL GUR'S STATEMENTS ABOUT ESTABLISHING A SECURITY BELT.

-- UK AMBASSADOR WILL SUM UP THAT AN "EARLY AND UN-EQUIVOCAL" ISRAELI STATEMENT OF ITS INTENT TO WITHDRAW OFFERS THE BEST HOPE OF PREVENTING "IRREPERABLE DAMAGE TO THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS". VANCE

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